

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hinge structure for connecting two members to accommodate movement between an open position and a closed position, said structure comprising:

5 an elastomeric element extending from one of said members to the other of said members; said elastomeric element having an outer surface that is outwardly exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position; said elastomeric element having two lateral margins; said hinge structure being
10 free of structure laterally of said elastomeric element so that said two lateral margins are laterally exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position; said elastomeric element outer surface being in tension when said two members are in said closed position; and said elastomeric element exerting a force to
15 urge said two members from said closed position toward said open position.

2. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 1 in which said

 elastomeric element has two transverse end faces;
20 one of said two end faces is bonded to one of said two members; and
 the other of said two end faces is bonded to the other of said two members.

25 3. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 1 in which said elastomeric member has an inner surface that is exposed to face away from said two members when said two members are in said open position and that faces inwardly toward said two members when said two members are in said closed position.

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4. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 1 in which said elastomeric element is bi-injection molded with said two members.

5. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 1 in which said hinge structure further includes a film hinge connecting said two members;

an elastomeric element has an inner surface bonded to said film hinge; and

said elastomeric element inner surface is a substantially neutral stress surface when said two members are in said closed position.

6. A hinge structure for connecting two members to accommodate movement between an open position and a closed position, said structure comprising:

a film hinge connecting said two members; and
an elastomeric element extending from one of said members to the other of said members; said elastomeric element having an outer surface that is (1) outwardly exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position, and (2) in tension when said two members are in said closed position; said elastomeric element having an inner surface that is bonded to said film hinge and that is a substantially neutral stress surface when said two members are in said closed position; and said elastomeric element exerting a force to urge said two members from said closed position toward said open position.

7. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 6 in which said

elastomeric element has two transverse end faces;
one of said two end faces is bonded to one of said two members; and

the other of said two end faces is bonded to the other of said two members.

5 8. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 6 in which said elastomeric element is bi-injection molded with said film hinge and said two members.

10 9. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 6 in which said hinge structure is adapted for a closure for a container opening wherein said closure includes (1) one of said two members functioning as a base for mounting to said container over said opening and defining a discharge aperture communicating with said opening, and (2) the other of said two members functioning as a lid movable between a closed position occluding said aperture and an open position spaced from said aperture.

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10. A hinge structure for connecting two members to accommodate movement between an open position and a closed position, said structure comprising:

20 an elastomeric element extending from one of said members to the other of said members; said elastomeric element having an outer surface that is (1) outwardly exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position, and (2) in tension when said two members are in said closed position; said elastomeric element having an inner surface that is exposed to face away from said two members when said two members are in said open position
25 and that faces inwardly toward said two members when said two members are in said closed position; said elastomeric element inner surface being in compression when said two members are in said closed position; and said elastomeric element exerting a force to urge said two members from said
30 closed position toward said open position.

11. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which
said

elastomeric element has two transverse end faces;
one of said two end faces is bonded to one of said two

5 members; and

the other of said two end faces is bonded to the other of said
two members.

12. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which
10 said elastomeric element is bi-injection molded with said two members.

13. The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which
said hinge structure is adapted for a closure for a container opening wherein
said closure includes (1) one of said two members functioning as a base for
15 mounting to said container over said opening and defining a discharge
aperture communicating with said opening, and (2) the other of said two
members functioning as a lid movable between a closed position occluding
said aperture and an open position spaced from said aperture.

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